

REMARKS

Corrections have been made to the drawings. Marked-up copies of the drawings showing the addition of number 150 to FIG. 1B is submitted herewith.

Changes have been made to the specification to designate FIGS. 1A and 1B. All of these changes are believed to overcome the Examiner's previous objections. Approval by the Examiner of the changes to the drawings and specification are respectfully requested. No new matter has been added. Formal drawings incorporating the changes are also submitted herewith under separate letter to the draftsman

Claim 1 was objected to because in part c of claim 1, the phrase, "...printing at a designated location accepted digital images...", should be changed to "...printing at a designated location that accepts digital images...".

The above change to claim 1 has been made in accordance with the Examiner's kind suggestions.

Claims 1-5 and 10-14 were rejected under 35 USC § 102(e) as being anticipated by Enomoto et al. (US Patent 5,974,401).

Claim 1 has been amended to indicate that after the digital image, which contains authorization image, is received by the receiving agency, it is displayed. The purpose of this display is to determine whether the contents of the digital image are acceptable for making a postage stamp image. As discussed in the specification, the purpose for checking the content of the postage stamp image is to ensure that such image is unsuitable or offensive for use as a postage stamp. The receiving agency performs a visual check on the postage stamp image prior to printing. In the Enomoto et al. reference, an image is sent to a selected photofinisher for printing. In column 4, lines 52-65, ordering software is discussed. In column 8, lines 60-65, it is indicated that it is possible to add data designating manual image corrections which relate to color and density problems. This is not the same as the photofinisher having the authority to reject an image because it is unacceptable for use as a postage stamp. In column 7, line 32-38, the photofinisher can manually correct an image to provide the best density and color, which is a standard operation in photofinishing. In column 7, lines 14-21, the

order and delivery date are designated with the print order. This is common photofinishing practice. The claims in the case are now specifically directed for making photofinishing images and it is the receiving agency that is going to determine whether these images are acceptable and examine the authorization before the customer has authorized the use of the digital image for a postage stamp. This claim is not directed to improving the color balance which is routinely done during the printing step. Claims 6-14 have been deleted and so the rejection of claims 10-14 is now made moot.

Claims 6-9 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Enomoto et al. (US Patent 5,974,401) and further in view of Moghadam et al. (US Patent 5,799,219).

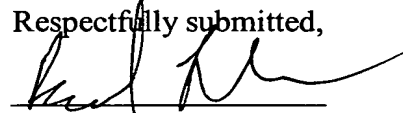
These claims have been deleted and so this rejection is now made moot.

It is believed that these changes now make the claims clear and definite and, if there are any problems with these changes, Applicants' attorney would appreciate a telephone call.

In view of the foregoing, it is believed none of the references, taken singly or in combination, disclose the claimed invention. Accordingly, this application is believed to be in condition for allowance, the notice of which is respectfully requested.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned **"Version with Markings to Show Changes Made"**.

Respectfully submitted,



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Version With Markings To Show Changes Made

In the Specification:

Two new paragraphs have been added on page 4, after line 12.

FIG. 1A is an enlarged view of the selected image of FIG. 1;

FIG. 1B is an enlarged view of the authenticated image of
FIG. 2 ;

The paragraph beginning on page 4, line 25 has been amended as set forth below:

Referring now to FIG. 1, there is illustrated a system for remotely selecting an image and ordering postage stamps according to the present invention. Reference is made to commonly assigned U.S. Patent No. 5,666,215 the disclosure of which is incorporated herein by reference. A set of personal images 30 is viewed at a consumer's location 10 on their personal computer 20 or interactive TV. The source of the set 30 of the personal images can be image files stored in digital format on floppy and hard disks, Picture CDs, Photo CDs, and CD-ROMs. The image files can be down loaded from the Internet using a system such as Kodak's PhotoNet, or negatives and prints can be scanned using the consumer's own film scanner 45 or print scanner 55 and displayed on their personal computer's display 60. The desired image 40 is then selected and authorizing information such as order information is provided. The authorizing information is comprised of but not limited to the consumer's address, credit card number, consumer authorization and number of postage stamps desired. A digital file of the selected image 40 (FIG. 1A) and the authorizing information are sent via a modem 70 to the receiving agency 80 such as the U. S. Postal Service over communication links 90 such as the Internet. The receiving agency 80 receives the image file and authorizing information via a modem 115, records the image file and authorizing information using a computer 95, and stores the image file and authorizing information in a mass storage unit 105 such as an IOMEGA Jaz Drive.

The paragraph beginning on page 6, line 8 has been amended as set forth below.

FIG. 2 is a block diagram of a system for remotely selecting images for transmitting to, receiving at a location different than the receiving agency for the production of such items as personalized postage stamps 120. The receiving location 140 can be a photofinisher, or any place capable of receiving, authorizing and printing an authentic digital image 150 (FIG. 1B) such as a postage stamp. A digital file of the desired image 40 and authorizing information are sent via a modem 70 (See FIG. 1) to the receiving location 140 over communication links 90 such as the Internet. The receiving location 140 receives the image file and authorizing information via a modem 155, records the image file and authorizing information using a computer 295, and stores the image file and authorizing information in a mass storage unit 165 such as an IOMEGA Jaz Drive.

In the Claims:

Claim 1 has been amended as set forth below:

1. (Once amended) A method of authorizing the making of postage stamp images on a receiver [such as postage stamps] by a receiving agency comprising the steps of:
 - (a) electronically transmitting a digital image file over a channel to the receiving agency;
 - (b) the digital image file includes at least one digital image and authorization information for making postage stamp images on a receiver; and
 - (c) receiving the digital image file at the receiving agency, displaying at least one received digital image and examining the displayed digital image to determine whether its contents are acceptable for making postage stamp images and examining the authorization information and printing at a designated location [accepted] that accepts digital images on a receiver corresponding to the transmitted digital image when the authorization information is approved.

Claims 6-14 have been cancelled.



FIG. 1A

FIG. 1B

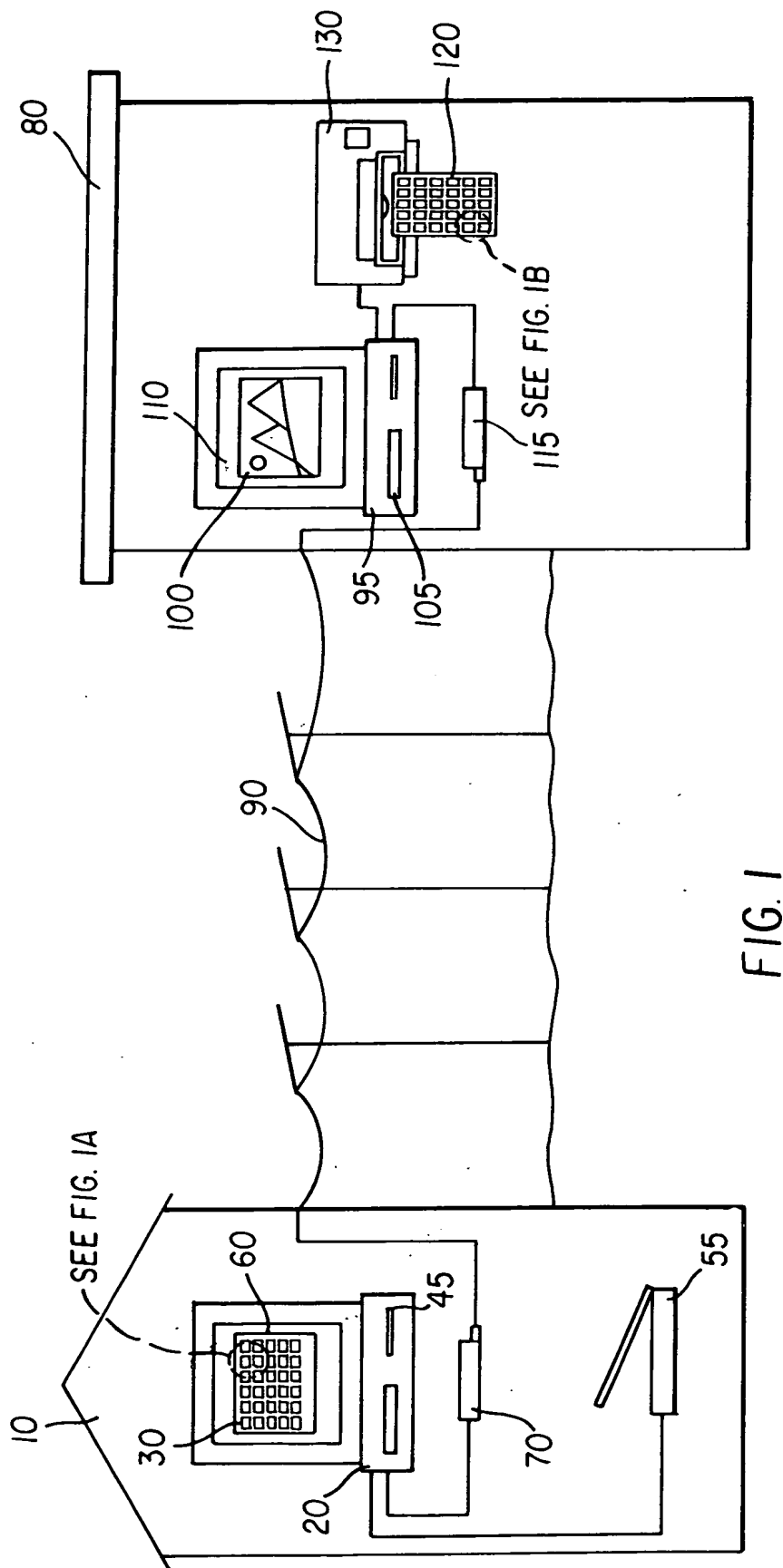


FIG. 1